

THE BERKSHIRE GAS COMPANY

Application of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 App., §§ 2-1 through 2-10 and 220 C.M.R. §§ 7.00 et seq., for approval by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy of the Company's proposed operating budget and applicable monthly surcharge for the Residential Energy Conservation Service program for the period of January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The Berkshire Gas Company requests approval of the operating budget and monthly surcharge for its Residential Energy Conservation Service ("RCS") Program, for the period of January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002. The calculations, data, and reasons supporting this charge are available for public inspection at the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department").

The Department invites public comment on this matter. Any person who desires to file written comments or request a public hearing in this matter, shall submit an original and three (3) copies of such written comments, or petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding, with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, not later than the close of business (5:00 P.M.) November 28, 2001.

Any person who desires to participate in this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, 2d Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) Wednesday, November 28, 2001. A petition to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03, and shall include a request for a hearing if a hearing is desired. Receipt by the Department -- not mailing -- constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A late-filed petition may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

Copies of all documents that are filed with the Department must also be provided electronically, by one of two means: 1) e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us using a program compatible with WordPerfect, naming the document file with a .wpd suffix and identifying in the e-mail the case caption, docket number, party and title of document, or

2) diskette in a program compatible with WordPerfect 5.0 or higher, again identifying on the diskette the case caption, docket number, party and title of document.

The Petitioner, Berkshire Gas Company, is required to give notice of said request for public comment and participation by publication hereof once at least seven (7) days prior to the close of the public comment period in the Berkshire Eagle. The Petitioner is also required to mail a copy of this notice at least seven (7) days prior to the close of the comment period to any person who has intervened in the prior two annual RCS proceedings.

The Petitioner is also required to make return of service and proof of publication at the time of the close of the comment period.

By Order of the Department,

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary